

HOUSE RESOLUTION 13

By Clemmons

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Ben Zobrist, 2016
World Series Most Valuable Player.

WHEREAS, it was with immense pride that the members of this General Assembly learned that Mr. Ben Zobrist, a resident of Tennessee, was named the Most Valuable Player of the 2016 World Series; and

WHEREAS, proving himself to be the right man at the right time, Ben Zobrist answered the prayers of millions of Chicago Cubs fans around the world as he stood in the batter's box in Game 7 of the World Series, with the score tied in the 10th inning, and drove in the go-ahead run that would bring a World Series championship to the Windy City after 108 years; and

WHEREAS, a highly talented player who hit for a .357 batting average in the World Series, Mr. Zobrist hoisted the championship trophy for the second consecutive year, having won the 2015 World Series as a member of the Kansas City Royals; and

WHEREAS, born and raised in Eureka, Illinois, Ben Zobrist started playing baseball at the age of eight; he played college baseball at Olivet Nazarene University and Dallas Baptist University; and

WHEREAS, drafted by the Houston Astros as a shortstop in the sixth round of the 2004 Major League Baseball draft, Mr. Zobrist was traded to the Tampa Bay Rays on July 12, 2006, and made his major league debut with Tampa Bay on August 1, 2006, against the Detroit Tigers; and

WHEREAS, he played in his first World Series as a member of the Tampa Bay Rays in 2008, and became the team's starting second baseman the next season, earning a trip to his first All-Star Game and selection by the Tampa Bay Chapter of the Baseball Writers' Association of America as the Rays' MVP; and

WHEREAS, signing a new contract with Tampa Bay in 2010, Mr. Zobrist continued to prove his versatility on the diamond by flashing the leather on the field at shortstop, second base, and in the outfield over the next few years; he was once again named to the All-Star team in 2013 and collected his 1,000th hit on September 10, 2014; and

WHEREAS, traded to the Oakland Athletics on January 10, 2015, he hit a two-run homer on opening day in his first regular season at bat with his new team before being sidelined in late April due to injury; and

WHEREAS, the Kansas City Royals traded for Mr. Zobrist on July 28, 2015, as they pursued the pennant; his .284 batting average, 7 home runs, 37 runs scored, and 23 runs batted in helped the team clinch their division; and

WHEREAS, Ben Zobrist enjoyed a tremendous 2015 postseason with the Royals, starting every game and batting second as he hit for a .303 batting average with 66 at bats, 15 runs scored, 20 hits, 2 home runs, and 6 RBIs to claim his first World Series ring; and

WHEREAS, on December 8, 2015, Mr. Zobrist signed a four-year contract with the Chicago Cubs, reuniting him with his former Tampa Bay manager, Joe Maddon; he enjoyed another great regular season in 2016 as he posted a .272 batting average, hit 18 home runs, and tallied 76 runs batted in as the Cubs captured the National League Central Division title; and

WHEREAS, Ben Zobrist and the Chicago Cubs made their historic run to the World Series by defeating the San Francisco Giants in a four-game National League Division Series; and

WHEREAS, Ben Zobrist and the Chicago Cubs won the Cubs' first National League pennant since 1945 by defeating the Los Angeles Dodgers in a six-game National League Championship Series; and

WHEREAS, Ben Zobrist and the Chicago Cubs made the dreams of Cubbies worldwide come true by rallying to defeat the Cleveland Indians and win the World Series in a dramatic seven-game series, bringing the Commissioner's Trophy to Wrigley Field; and

WHEREAS, Ben Zobrist, hitting .357 in the Series and driving home the go-ahead run in the 10th inning of Game 7 with an RBI double, earned the World Series MVP, becoming the first Cub ever to win the award; and

WHEREAS, a champion both on and off the baseball diamond, Mr. Zobrist has been a long-time supporter of Nashville RBI (Reviving Baseball in Inner-Cities) and an honorable member of our community and role model for our youth; and

WHEREAS, a man of faith, Mr. Zobrist is a devoted husband and father who enjoys the love and support of his wife, Julianna Zobrist, and their three children, Zion Benjamin, Kruse Allegra, and Blaise Royal; and

WHEREAS, it is highly appropriate that the members of this General Assembly specially recognize and commend this esteemed gentleman on his extraordinary success; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and congratulate Ben Zobrist on being named the Most Valuable Player of the 2016 World Series and wish him much continued success in all his endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.